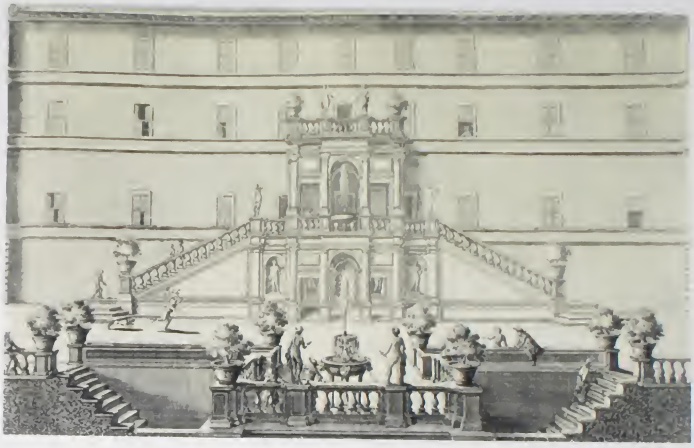

Engraving by Venturini (1685) showing the façade of the palace.

reason has not come down to us, Ligorio himself blamed his imprisonment on the « intrigues of Della Porta » (he was finally released thanks to the intercession of Cardinal Alessandro Farnese, then sponsor of the Virtuosi of the Pantheon). In 1567 Pope Pius IV removed him from his position as Architect of St. Peter's, perhaps because he wanted to alter Michelangelo's design and, since he had no other official commitments, he returned to his old patron, Cardinal Ippolito, in Tivoli.

Ligorio's name crops up again in the documents as supervisor of the work then being carried out in Tivoli by the artists G. B. Della Porta, G. A. Galvani, and Curzio Maccarone. It was Della Porta who sculpted the sibyls for the Oval Fountain designed by Ligorio and Pierre de la Motte who carved the statue of Rome for the fountain of the same name, also designed by Ligorio. This would explain — though there is no mention of a salary paid out to Ligorio in the ledgers — the frequent gifts that the Cardinal showered upon him, e.g. 23 *scudi* and 30 *batocchi* in 1567.

Two other artists besides Ligorio also took part in the Villa d'Este project: Gerolamo Muziano (1528-1592) and G. A. Galvani from Ferrara. The latter had previously worked for the Cardinal at the Quirinal Palace in 1563. From the ledgers we learn that Muziano was an interior decoration painter, whereas Galvani was employed as an architect at an annual salary of six *scudi*; he is responsible for the Fountain of the Twisted Columns (Proserpine).

Ligorio must also be credited with an expert knowledge of hydraulic devices which he gained from reading Vitruvius and Hero of Alexandria. « Those who desire to make waterdrawn devices, » he wrote (Turin Manuscript), « have to learn that water power is derived from automatic machines moved by striking wheels, as the devices of Hero and Philostratus. »

At the death of Cardinal Ippolito, the general layout of the villa had already been completed. Pirro Ligorio, sensing that the times had changed, applied for and was granted a permanent post under the patronage of Duke Alfonso II as antiquarian, architect, and artistic advisor. He died in Ferrara in October in the year 1583.